H. R. 3079

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

December 12, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

AN ACT

To amend the joint resolution that approved the covenant establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—NORTHERN MARIANA

2 ISLANDS IMMIGRATION, SE-

3 **CURITY, AND LABOR ACT**

- 4 SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.
- 5 This title may be cited as the "Northern Mariana Is-
- 6 lands Immigration, Security, and Labor Act".
- 7 SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.
- 8 (a) Immigration and Growth.—In recognition of
- 9 the need to ensure uniform adherence to long-standing
- 10 fundamental immigration policies of the United States, it
- 11 is the intention of the Congress in enacting this title—
- 12 (1) to ensure that effective border control pro-
- cedures are implemented and observed, and that na-
- tional security and homeland security issues are
- properly addressed, by extending the immigration
- laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immi-
- 17 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101
- (a)(17), to apply to the Commonwealth of the
- 19 Northern Mariana Islands (referred to in this title
- as the "Commonwealth"), with special provisions to
- 21 allow for—
- (A) the orderly phasing-out of the non-
- resident contract worker program of the Com-
- 24 monwealth; and

1	(B) the orderly phasing-in of Federal re-
2	sponsibilities over immigration in the Common-
3	wealth; and
4	(2) to minimize, to the greatest extent prac-
5	ticable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects
6	of phasing-out the Commonwealth's nonresident con-
7	tract worker program and to maximize the Common-
8	wealth's potential for future economic and business
9	growth by—
10	(A) encouraging diversification and growth
11	of the economy of the Commonwealth in accord-
12	ance with fundamental values underlying Fed-
13	eral immigration policy;
14	(B) recognizing local self-government, as
15	provided for in the Covenant To Establish a
16	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
17	lands in Political Union With the United States
18	of America through consultation with the Gov-
19	ernor of the Commonwealth;
20	(C) assisting the Commonwealth in achiev-
21	ing a progressively higher standard of living for
22	citizens of the Commonwealth through the pro-
23	vision of technical and other assistance;

- 1 (D) providing opportunities for individuals 2 authorized to work in the United States, includ-3 ing citizens of the freely associated states; and
 - (E) providing a mechanism for the continued use of alien workers, to the extent those workers continue to be necessary to supplement the Commonwealth's resident workforce, and to protect those workers from the potential for abuse and exploitation.
- 10 (b) Avoiding Adverse Effects.—In recognition of the Commonwealth's unique economic circumstances, his-11 12 tory, and geographical location, it is the intent of the Con-13 gress that the Commonwealth be given as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other 14 15 revenue sources, and developing new economic opportunities, consistent with the mandates of this title. This title, 16 17 and the amendments made by this title, should be imple-18 mented wherever possible to expand tourism and economic 19 development in the Commonwealth, including aiding pro-20 spective tourists in gaining access to the Commonwealth's 21 memorials, beaches, parks, dive sites, and other points of 22 interest.

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1	SEC. 103. IMMIGRATION REFORM FOR THE COMMON-
2	WEALTH.
3	(a) Amendment to Joint Resolution Approving
4	COVENANT ESTABLISHING COMMONWEALTH OF THE
5	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.—The Joint Resolution
6	entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To
7	Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
8	lands in Political Union with the United States of Amer-
9	ica', and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976
10	(Public Law 94–241; 90 Stat. 263), is amended by adding
11	at the end the following new section:
12	"SEC. 6. IMMIGRATION AND TRANSITION.
13	"(a) Application of the Immigration and Na-
14	TIONALITY ACT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSITION
15	Program.—
16	"(1) In general.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
17	and (3), effective on the first day of the first full
18	month commencing 1 year after the date of the en-
19	actment of the Northern Mariana Islands Immigra-
20	tion, Security, and Labor Act (hereafter referred to
21	as the 'transition program effective date'), the provi-
22	sions of the 'immigration laws' (as defined in section
23	101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
24	(8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) shall apply to the Common-

wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (referred to

in this section as the 'Commonwealth'), except as otherwise provided in this section.

"(2) Transition period beginning on the transition program effective date and ending on December 31, 2013, except as provided in subsections (b) and (d), during which the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish, administer, and enforce a transition program to regulate immigration to the Commonwealth, as provided in this section (hereafter referred to as the 'transition program').

"(3) Delay of commencement of transition period.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary's sole discretion, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, may determine that the transition program effective date be delayed for a period not to exceed more than 180 days after such date.

- 1 "(B) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—
 2 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall no3 tify the Congress of a determination under sub4 paragraph (A) not later than 30 days prior to
 5 the transition program effective date.
 - "(C) Congressional review.—A delay of the transition program effective date shall not take effect until 30 days after the date on which the notification under subparagraph (B) is made.
 - "(4) REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATIONS.—The transition program shall be implemented pursuant to regulations to be promulgated, as appropriate, by the head of each agency or department of the United States having responsibilities under the transition program.
 - "(5) Interagency agreements.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of the Interior shall negotiate and implement agreements among their agencies to identify and assign their respective duties so as to ensure timely and proper implementation of the provisions of this section. The agreements should address, at a minimum, procedures to ensure that Commonwealth employers have

access to adequate labor, and that tourists, students, retirees, and other visitors have access to the Commonwealth without unnecessary delay or impediment. The agreements may also allocate funding between the respective agencies tasked with various responsibilities under this section.

"(6) CERTAIN EDUCATION FUNDING.—In addition to fees charged pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)) to recover the full costs of providing adjudication services, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall charge an annual supplemental fee of \$150 per nonimmigrant worker to each prospective employer who is issued a permit under subsection (d) of this section during the transition period. Such supplemental fee shall be paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth government for the purpose of funding ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by Commonwealth educational entities.

"(7) ASYLUM.—Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) shall not apply during the transition period to persons physically present in the Commonwealth or arriving in the Commonwealth (whether or not at a designated port

- of arrival), including persons brought to the Com-
- 2 monwealth after having been interdicted in inter-
- anational or United States waters.
- 4 "(b) Numerical Limitations for Nonimmigrant
- 5 Workers.—An alien, if otherwise qualified, may seek ad-
- 6 mission to Guam or to the Commonwealth during the
- 7 transition program as a nonimmigrant worker under sec-
- 8 tion 101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality
- 9 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)) without counting against
- 10 the numerical limitations set forth in section 214(g) of
- 11 such Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)). This subsection does not
- 12 apply to any employment to be performed outside of Guam
- 13 or the Commonwealth. Not later than 3 years following
- 14 the transition program effective date, the Secretary of
- 15 Homeland Security shall issue a report to the Committee
- 16 on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on
- 17 the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Natural
- 18 Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the
- 19 House of Representatives projecting the number of asylum
- 20 claims the Secretary anticipates following the termination
- 21 of the transition period, the efforts the Secretary has
- 22 made to ensure appropriate interdiction efforts, provide
- 23 for appropriate treatment of asylum seekers, and prepare
- 24 to accept and adjudicate asylum claims in the Common-
- 25 wealth.

1	"(c) Nonimmigrant Investor Visas.—
2	"(1) In general.—Notwithstanding the treaty
3	requirements in section 101(a)(15)(E) of the Immi-
4	gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C
5	1101(a)(15)(E)), during the transition period, the
6	Secretary of Homeland Security may, upon the ap-
7	plication of an alien, classify an alien as a CNMI-
8	only nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(E)(ii)
9	of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C
10	1101(a)(15)(E)(ii)) if the alien—
11	"(A) has been admitted to the Common-
12	wealth in long-term investor status under the
13	immigration laws of the Commonwealth before
14	the transition program effective date;
15	"(B) has continuously maintained resi-
16	dence in the Commonwealth under long-term
17	investor status;
18	"(C) is otherwise admissible; and
19	"(D) maintains the investment or invest-
20	ments that formed the basis for such long-term
21	investor status.
22	"(2) Requirement for regulations.—Not
23	later than 60 days before the transition program ef-
24	fective date, the Secretary of Homeland Security

- shall publish regulations in the Federal Register to
- 2 implement this subsection.
- 3 "(d) Special Provision to Ensure Adequate
- 4 Employment; Commonwealth Only Transitional
- 5 Workers.—An alien who is seeking to enter the Com-
- 6 monwealth as a nonimmigrant worker may be admitted
- 7 to perform work during the transition period subject to
- 8 the following requirements:
- 9 "(1) Such an alien shall be treated as a non-
- immigrant described in section 101(a)(15) of the
- 11 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
- 1101(a)(15)), including the ability to apply, if other-
- wise eligible, for a change of nonimmigrant classi-
- fication under section 248 of such Act (8 U.S.C.
- 15 1258) or adjustment of status under this section
- and section 245 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1255).
- 17 "(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall
- establish, administer, and enforce a system for allo-
- cating and determining the number, terms, and con-
- ditions of permits to be issued to prospective em-
- 21 ployers for each such nonimmigrant worker de-
- scribed in this subsection who would not otherwise
- be eligible for admission under the Immigration and
- Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.). In adopting
- and enforcing this system, the Secretary shall also

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consider, in good faith and not later than 30 days after receipt by the Secretary, any comments and advice submitted by the Governor of the Commonwealth. This system shall provide for a reduction in the allocation of permits for such workers on an annual basis, to zero, during a period not to extend beyond December 31, 2013, unless extended pursuant to paragraph 5 of this subsection, and shall take into account the number of petitions granted under subsection (i). In no event shall a permit be valid beyond the expiration of the transition period. This system may be based on any reasonable method and criteria determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to promote the maximum use of, and to prevent adverse effects on wages and working conditions of, workers authorized to be employed in the United States, including lawfully admissible freely associated state citizen labor. No alien shall be granted nonimmigrant classification or a visa under this subsection unless the permit requirements established under this paragraph have been met.

"(3) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall set the conditions for admission of such an alien under the transition program, and the Secretary of State shall authorize the issuance of nonimmigrant visas for such an alien. Such a visa shall not be valid for admission to the United States, as defined in section 101(a)(38) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(38)), except admission to the Commonwealth. An alien admitted to the Commonwealth on the basis of such a visa shall be permitted to engage in employment only as authorized pursuant to the transition program.

"(4) Such an alien shall be permitted to transfer between employers in the Commonwealth during the period of such alien's authorized stay therein, without permission of the employee's current or prior employer, within the alien's occupational category or another occupational category the Secretary of Homeland Security has found requires alien workers to supplement the resident workforce.

"(5)(A) Not later than 180 days prior to the expiration of the transition period, or any extension thereof, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, shall ascertain the current and anticipated labor needs of the Commonwealth and determine whether an extension of up to 5 years of the provisions of this subsection is necessary to ensure an

adequate number of workers will be available for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this subparagraph, a business shall not be considered legitimate if it engages directly or indirectly in prostitution, trafficking in minors, or any other activity that is illegal under Federal or local law. The determinations of whether a business is legitimate and to what extent, if any, it may require alien workers to supplement the resident workforce, shall be made by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary's sole discretion.

"(B) If the Secretary of Labor determines that such an extension is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Labor may, through notice published in the Federal Register, provide for an additional extension period of up to 5 years.

"(C) In making the determination of whether alien workers are necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers for legitimate businesses in the Commonwealth, and if so, the number of such workers that are necessary, the Secretary of Labor may consider, among other relevant factors—

1	"(i) government, industry, or independent
2	workforce studies reporting on the need, or lack
3	thereof, for alien workers in the Common-
4	wealth's businesses;
5	"(ii) the unemployment rate of United
6	States citizen workers residing in the Common-
7	wealth;
8	"(iii) the unemployment rate of aliens in
9	the Commonwealth who have been lawfully ad-
10	mitted for permanent residence;
11	"(iv) the number of unemployed alien
12	workers in the Commonwealth;
13	"(v) any good faith efforts to locate, edu-
14	cate, train, or otherwise prepare United States
15	citizen residents, lawful permanent residents,
16	and unemployed alien workers already within
17	the Commonwealth, to assume those jobs;
18	"(vi) any available evidence tending to
19	show that United States citizen residents, law-
20	ful permanent residents, and unemployed alien
21	workers already in the Commonwealth are not
22	willing to accept jobs of the type offered;
23	"(vii) the extent to which admittance of
24	alien workers will affect the compensation, ben-
25	efits, and living standards of existing workers

1	within those industries and other industries au-
2	thorized to employ alien workers; and
3	"(viii) the prior use, if any, of alien work-
4	ers to fill those industry jobs, and whether the
5	industry requires alien workers to fill those
6	jobs.
7	"(6) The Secretary of Homeland Security may
8	authorize the admission of a spouse or minor child
9	accompanying or following to join a worker admitted
10	pursuant to this subsection.
11	"(e) Persons Lawfully Admitted Under the
12	COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRATION LAW.—
13	"(1) Prohibition on Removal.—
14	"(A) In general.—Subject to subpara-
15	graph (B), no alien who is lawfully present in
16	the Commonwealth pursuant to the immigration
17	laws of the Commonwealth on the transition
18	program effective date shall be removed from
19	the United States on the grounds that such
20	alien's presence in the Commonwealth is in vio-
21	lation of section 212(a)(6)(A) of the Immigra-
22	tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
23	1182(a)(6)(A)) until the earlier of the date—

1	"(i) of the completion of the period of
2	the alien's admission under the immigra-
3	tion laws of the Commonwealth; or
4	"(ii) that is 2 years after the transi-
5	tion program effective date.
6	"(B) Limitations.—Nothing in this sub-
7	section shall be construed to prevent or limit
8	the removal under subparagraph $212(a)(6)(A)$
9	of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
10	U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(A)) of such an alien at any
11	time, if the alien entered the Commonwealth
12	after the date of the enactment of the Northern
13	Mariana Islands Immigration, Security, and
14	Labor Act, and the Secretary of Homeland Se-
15	curity has determined that the Government of
16	the Commonwealth has violated section 103(i)
17	of the Northern Mariana Islands Immigration,
18	Security, and Labor Act.
19	"(2) Employment authorization.—An alien
20	who is lawfully present and authorized to be em-
21	ployed in the Commonwealth pursuant to the immi-
22	gration laws of the Commonwealth on the transition
23	program effective date shall be considered authorized

by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be em-

1	ployed in the Commonwealth until the earlier of the
2	date—

- 3 "(A) of expiration of the alien's employ-4 ment authorization under the immigration laws 5 of the Commonwealth; or
- 6 "(B) that is 2 years after the transition 7 program effective date.

"(3) Registration.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may require any alien present in the Commonwealth on or after the transition period effective date to register with the Secretary in such a manner, and according to such schedule, as he may in his discretion require. Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall not apply to any alien who fails to comply with such registration requirement. Notwithstanding any other law, the Government of the Commonwealth shall provide to the Secretary all Commonwealth immigration records or other information that the Secretary deems necessary to assist the implementation of this paragraph or other provisions of the Northern Mariana Islands Immigration, Security, and Labor Act. Nothing in this paragraph shall modify or limit section 262 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1302) or other provi-

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- sion of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating
 to the registration of aliens.
- "(4) Removable aliens.—Except as specifically provided in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, nothing in this subsection shall prohibit or limit the removal of any alien who is removable under the Immigration and Nationality Act.
 - retary of Homeland Security may execute any administratively final order of exclusion, deportation or removal issued under authority of the immigration laws of the United States before, on, or after the transition period effective date, or under authority of the immigration laws of the Commonwealth before the transition period effective date, upon any subject of such order found in the Commonwealth on or after the transition period effective date, regardless whether the alien has previously been removed from the United States or the Commonwealth pursuant to such order.
- "(f) Effect on Other Laws.—The provisions of this section and of the immigration laws, as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)), shall, on the transition program effective date, supersede and replace all laws, provisions,

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- 1 or programs of the Commonwealth relating to the admis-
- 2 sion of aliens and the removal of aliens from the Common-
- 3 wealth.
- 4 "(g) Accrual of Time for Purposes of Section
- 5 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality
- 6 Act.—No time that an alien is present in the Common-
- 7 wealth in violation of the immigration laws of the Com-
- 8 monwealth shall be counted for purposes of inadmissibility
- 9 under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Na-
- 10 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)).
- 11 "(h) Report on Nonresident Guestworker
- 12 POPULATION.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consulta-
- 13 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the
- 14 Governor of the Commonwealth, shall report to the Con-
- 15 gress not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
- 16 ment of the Northern Mariana Islands Immigration, Secu-
- 17 rity, and Labor Act. The report shall include—
- 18 "(1) the number of aliens residing in the Com-
- monwealth;
- 20 "(2) a description of the legal status (under
- 21 Federal law) of such aliens;
- "(3) the number of years each alien has been
- residing in the Commonwealth;
- 24 "(4) the current and future requirements of the
- 25 Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce; and

1	"(5) such recommendations to the Congress, as
2	the Secretary may deem appropriate, related to
3	whether or not the Congress should consider permit-
4	ting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully resid-
5	ing in the Commonwealth on such enactment date to
6	apply for long-term status under the immigration
7	and nationality laws of the United States.".
8	(b) Waiver of Requirements for Nonimmigrant
9	VISITORS.—The Immigration and Nationality Act (8
10	U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended—
11	(1) in section $214(a)(1)$ (8 U.S.C.
12	1184(a)(1))—
13	(A) by striking "Guam" each place such
14	term appears and inserting "Guam or the Com-
15	monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands";
16	and
17	(B) by striking "fifteen" and inserting
18	"45";
19	(2) in section $212(a)(7)(B)$ (8 U.S.C.
20	1182(a)(7)(B)), by amending clause (iii) to read as
21	follows:
22	"(iii) Guam and northern mariana
23	ISLANDS VISA WAIVER.—For provision au-
24	thorizing waiver of clause (i) in the case of
25	visitors to Guam or the Commonwealth of

1	the Northern Mariana Islands, see sub-
2	section (l)."; and
3	(3) by amending section 212(l) (8 U.S.C.
4	1182(l)) to read as follows:
5	"(l) Guam and Northern Mariana Islands Visa
6	Waiver Program.—
7	"(1) In general.—The requirement of sub-
8	section (a)(7)(B)(i) may be waived by the Secretary
9	of Homeland Security, in the case of an alien apply-
10	ing for admission as a nonimmigrant visitor for busi-
11	ness or pleasure and solely for entry into and stay
12	in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern
13	Mariana Islands for a period not to exceed 45 days,
14	if the Secretary of Homeland Security, after con-
15	sultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Sec-
16	retary of State, the Governor of Guam and the Gov-
17	ernor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
18	iana Islands, determines that—
19	"(A) an adequate arrival and departure
20	control system has been developed in Guam and
21	the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
22	lands; and
23	"(B) such a waiver does not represent a
24	threat to the welfare, safety, or security of the

1	United States or its territories and common-
2	wealths.
3	"(2) ALIEN WAIVER OF RIGHTS.—An alien may
4	not be provided a waiver under this subsection un-
5	less the alien has waived any right—
6	"(A) to review or appeal under this Act an
7	immigration officer's determination as to the
8	admissibility of the alien at the port of entry
9	into Guam or the Commonwealth of the North-
10	ern Mariana Islands; or
11	"(B) to contest, other than on the basis of
12	an application for withholding of removal under
13	section 241(b)(3) of this Act or under the Con-
14	vention Against Torture, or an application for
15	asylum if permitted under section 208, any ac-
16	tion for removal of the alien.
17	"(3) Regulations.—All necessary regulations
18	to implement this subsection shall be promulgated
19	by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consulta-

to implement this subsection shall be promulgated by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, on or before the 180th day after the date of the enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands Immigration, Security, and Labor Act. The promulgation of such regulations shall be considered a foreign affairs function for purposes of section

1 553(a) of title 5, United States Code. At a min-2 imum, such regulations should include, but not nec-3 essarily be limited to—

"(A) a listing of all countries whose nationals may obtain the waiver also provided by this subsection, except that such regulations shall provide for a listing of any country from which the Commonwealth has received a significant economic benefit from the number of visitors for pleasure within the one-year period preceding the date of the enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands Immigration, Security, and Labor Act, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such country's inclusion on such list would represent a threat to the welfare, safety, or security of the United States or its territories; and

"(B) any bonding requirements for nationals of some or all of those countries who may present an increased risk of overstays or other potential problems, if different from such requirements otherwise provided by law for non-immigrant visitors.

"(4) Factors.—In determining whether to grant or continue providing the waiver under this

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subsection to nationals of any country, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, shall consider all factors that the Secretary deems relevant, including electronic travel authorizations, procedures for reporting lost and stolen passports, repatriation of aliens, rates of refusal for non-immigrant visitor visas, overstays, exit systems, and information exchange.

"(5) Suspension.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall monitor the admission of nonimmigrant visitors to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under this subsection. If the Secretary determines that such admissions have resulted in an unacceptable number of visitors from a country remaining unlawfully in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, unlawfully obtaining entry to other parts of the United States, or seeking withholding of removal or asylum, or that visitors from a country pose a risk to law enforcement or security interests of Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or of the United States (including the interest in the enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States), the Secretary shall suspend the admission of nationals of such country under this subsection. The Secretary of Homeland Security may in the Secretary's discretion suspend the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands visa waiver program at any time, on a country-by-country basis,

6 for other good cause.

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"(6) Addition of Countries.—The Governor of Guam and the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may request the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Homeland Security to add a particular country to the list of countries whose nationals may obtain the waiver provided by this subsection, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant such request after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, and may promulgate regulations with respect to the inclusion of that country and any special requirements the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary's sole discretion, may impose prior to allowing nationals of that country to obtain the waiver provided by this subsection.".

(c) Special Nonimmigrant Categories for Guam
 and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
 Islands.—The Governor of Guam and the Governor of

- 1 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (re-
- 2 ferred to in this subsection as "CNMI") may request that
- 3 the Secretary of Homeland Security study the feasibility
- 4 of creating additional Guam or CNMI-only nonimmigrant
- 5 visas to the extent that existing nonimmigrant visa cat-
- 6 egories under the Immigration and Nationality Act do not
- 7 provide for the type of visitor, the duration of allowable
- 8 visit, or other circumstance. The Secretary of Homeland
- 9 Security may review such a request, and, after consulta-
- 10 tion with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the
- 11 Interior, shall issue a report to the Committee on Energy
- 12 and Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judici-
- 13 ary of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Re-
- 14 sources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House
- 15 of Representatives with respect to the feasibility of cre-
- 16 ating those additional Guam or CNMI-only visa cat-
- 17 egories. Consideration of such additional Guam or CNMI-
- 18 only visa categories may include, but are not limited to,
- 19 special nonimmigrant statuses for investors, students, and
- 20 retirees, but shall not include nonimmigrant status for the
- 21 purpose of employment in Guam or the CNMI.
- 22 (d) Inspection of Persons Arriving From the
- 23 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- 24 Guam and Northern Mariana Islands-Only Visas
- 25 Not Valid for Entry Into Other Parts of the

United States.—Section 212(d)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(7)) is amended by inserting "the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," after "Guam,". 4 5 (e) Technical Assistance Program.— 6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-7 rior, in consultation with the Governor of the Com-8 monwealth, the Secretary of Labor, and the Sec-9 retary of Commerce, and as provided in the Inter-10 agency Agreements required to be negotiated under 11 section 6(a)(4) of the Joint Resolution entitled "A 12 Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant To Estab-13 lish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-14 lands in Political Union with the United States of 15 America', and for other purposes', approved March 16 24, 1976 (Public Law 94–241), as added by sub-17 section (a), shall provide— 18 (A) technical assistance and other support 19 to the Commonwealth to identify opportunities 20 for, and encourage diversification and growth 21 of, the economy of the Commonwealth; 22 (B) technical assistance, including assist-23 ance in recruiting, training, and hiring of work-24 ers, to assist employers in the Commonwealth

in securing employees first from among United

1	States citizens and nationals resident in the
2	Commonwealth and if an adequate number of
3	such workers are not available, from among
4	legal permanent residents, including lawfully
5	admissible citizens of the freely associated
6	states; and
7	(C) technical assistance, including assist-
8	ance to identify types of jobs needed, identify
9	skills needed to fulfill such jobs, and assistance
10	to Commonwealth educational entities to de-
11	velop curricula for such job skills to include
12	training teachers and students for such skills.
13	(2) Consultation.—In providing such tech-
14	nical assistance under paragraph (1), the Secretaries
15	shall—
16	(A) consult with the Government of the
17	Commonwealth, local businesses, regional
18	banks, educational institutions, and other ex-
19	perts in the economy of the Commonwealth
20	and
21	(B) assist in the development and imple-
22	mentation of a process to identify opportunities
23	for and encourage diversification and growth of

the economy of the Commonwealth and to iden-

tify and encourage opportunities to meet the labor needs of the Commonwealth.

(3) Cost-sharing.—For the provision of technical assistance or support under this paragraph (other than that required to pay the salaries and expenses of Federal personnel), the Secretary of the Interior shall require a non-Federal matching contribution of 10 percent.

(f) Operations.—

- (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—At any time on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Labor may establish and maintain offices and other operations in the Commonwealth for the purpose of carrying out duties under—
 - (A) the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); and
 - (B) the transition program established under section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law

1	94–241), as added by subsection (a) of this sec-
2	tion.
3	(2) Personnel.—To the maximum extent
4	practicable and consistent with the satisfactory per-
5	formance of assigned duties under applicable law,
6	the Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Secu-
7	rity, and the Secretary of Labor shall recruit and
8	hire personnel from among qualified United States
9	citizens and national applicants residing in the Com-
10	monwealth to serve as staff in carrying out oper-
11	ations described in paragraph (1).
12	(g) Conforming Amendments to Public Law 94–
13	241.—
14	(1) Amendments.—Public Law 94–241 is
15	amended as follows:
16	(A) In section 503 of the covenant set
17	forth in section 1, by striking subsection (a)
18	and redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
19	subsections (a) and (b), respectively.
20	(B) By striking section 506 of the cov-
21	enant set forth in section 1.
22	(C) In section 703(b) of the covenant set
23	forth in section 1, by striking "quarantine,
24	passport, immigration and naturalization" and
25	inserting "quarantine and passport".

1 (2) Effective date.—The amendments made 2 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the transition 3 program effective date described in section 6 of Pub-4 lie Law 94–241 (as added by subsection (a)).

(h) Reports to Congress.—

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- (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of the first year that is at least 2 full years after the date of the enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates the overall effect of the transition program established under section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94–241), as added by subsection (a) of this section, and the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) on the Commonwealth.
- (2) Contents.—In addition to other topics otherwise required to be included under this title or

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the amendments made by this title, each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the efforts that have been undertaken during the period covered by the report to diversify and strengthen the local economy of the Commonwealth, including efforts to promote the Commonwealth as a tourist destination. The report by the President shall include an estimate for the numbers of nonimmigrant workers described under section 101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)) necessary to avoid adverse economic effects in Guam and the Commonwealth.

- (3) GAO REPORT.—The Government Accountability Office shall submit a report to the Congress not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, to include, at a minimum, the following items:
- (A) An assessment of the implementation of this title and the amendments made by this title, including an assessment of the performance of Federal agencies and the Government of the Commonwealth in meeting congressional intent.

(B) An assessment of the short-term and long-term impacts of implementation of this title and the amendments made by this title on the economy of the Commonwealth, including its ability to obtain workers to supplement its resident workforce and to maintain access to its tourists and customers, and any effect on com-pliance with United States treaty obligations mandating non-refoulement for refugees.

(C) An assessment of the economic benefit of the investors "grandfathered" under subsection (c) of section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94–241), as added by subsection (a) of this section, and the Commonwealth's ability to attract new investors after the date of the enactment of this title.

(D) An assessment of the number of illegal aliens in the Commonwealth, including any Federal and Commonwealth efforts to locate and repatriate them.

- (4) Reports by the Local government.—
 The Governor of the Commonwealth may submit an annual report to the President on the implementation of this title, and the amendments made by this title, with recommendations for future changes. The President shall forward the Governor's report to the Congress with any Administration comment after an appropriate period of time for internal review, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the President to provide any legislative recommendation to the Congress.
 - (5) Report on Federal Personnel and Resource Requirements.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consulting with the Secretary of the Interior and other departments and agencies as may be deemed necessary, shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, on the current and planned levels of Transportation Security

- 1 Administration, United States Customs and Border 2 Protection, United States Immigration and Customs 3 Enforcement, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and United States Coast Guard 5 personnel and resources necessary for fulfilling mis-6 sion requirements on Guam and the Commonwealth 7 in a manner comparable to the level provided at other similar ports of entry in the United States. In 8 9 fulfilling this reporting requirement, the Secretary 10 shall consider and anticipate the increased require-11 ments due to the proposed realignment of military 12 forces on Guam and in the Commonwealth and 13 growth in the tourism sector. 14 (i) REQUIRED ACTIONS PRIOR TO TRANSITION PRO-15 GRAM EFFECTIVE DATE.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on 16 the transition program effective date described in section 17 6 of Public Law 94–241 (as added by subsection (a)), the 18 19 Government of the Commonwealth shall— 20 (1) not permit an increase in the total number 21 of alien workers who are present in the Common-22 wealth as of the date of the enactment of this Act; 23 and
- 24 (2) administer its nonrefoulement protection 25 program—

(A) according to the terms and procedures 1 2 set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the Commonwealth of the 3 4 Northern Mariana Islands and the United 5 States Department of Interior, Office of Insular 6 Affairs, executed on September 12, 2003 (which 7 terms and procedures, including but not limited 8 to funding by the Secretary of the Interior and 9 performance by the Secretary of Homeland Security of the duties of "Protection Consultant" 10 11 to the Commonwealth, shall have effect on and 12 after the date of the enactment of this Act), as 13 well as CNMI Public Law 13–61 and the Immi-14 gration Regulations Establishing a Procedural 15 Mechanism for Persons Requesting Protection 16 from Refoulement; and 17 (B) so as not to remove or otherwise effect 18 the involuntary return of any alien whom the 19 Protection Consultant has determined to be eli-20 gible for protection from persecution or torture. 21 (j) Conforming Amendments to the Immigra-TION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—The Immigration and Na-

tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended—

1	(1) in section $101(a)(15)(D)(ii)$, by inserting
2	"or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
3	lands" after "Guam" each time such term appears;
4	(2) in section 101(a)(36), by striking "and the
5	Virgin Islands of the United States" and inserting
6	"the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the
7	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands";
8	(3) in section 101(a)(38), by striking "and the
9	Virgin Islands of the United States" and inserting
10	"the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the
11	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands";
12	(4) in section 208, by adding at the end the fol-
13	lowing:
14	"(e) Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
15	ISLANDS.—The provisions of this section and section
16	209(b) of this Act shall apply to persons physically present
17	in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
18	or arriving in the Commonwealth (whether or not at a des-
19	ignated port of arrival and including persons who are
20	brought to the Commonwealth after having been inter-
21	dicted in international or United States waters) only on
22	or after January 1, 2014."; and
23	(5) in section 235(b)(1), by adding at the end
24	the following:

- 1 "(G) COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
 2 MARIANA ISLANDS.—Nothing in this subsection
 3 shall be construed to authorize or require any
 4 person described in section 208(e) of this Act to
 5 be permitted to apply for asylum under section
 6 208 of this Act at any time before January 1,
 7 2014.".
- 8 (k) Availability of Other Nonimmigrant Pro-
- 9 FESSIONALS.—The requirements of section 212(m)(6)(B)
- 10 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
- 11 1182(m)(6)(B)) shall not apply to a facility in Guam, the
- 12 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the
- 13 Virgin Islands.
- 14 SEC. 104. FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 94–241.
- 15 Public Law 94-241, as amended, is further amended
- 16 in section 4(c)(3) by striking the colon after "Marshall
- 17 Islands" and inserting the following: ", except that
- 18 \$200,000 in fiscal year 2009 and \$225,000 annually for
- 19 fiscal years 2010 through 2018 are hereby rescinded; Pro-
- 20 vided, That the amount rescinded shall be increased by
- 21 the same percentage as that of the annual salary and ben-
- 22 efit adjustments for Members of Congress".
- 23 SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
- There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
- 25 as may be necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 106. EFFECTIVE DATE.

- 2 (a) In General.—Except as specifically provided in
- 3 this section or otherwise in this Act, this title and the
- 4 amendments made by this title shall take effect on the
- 5 date of the enactment of this title.
- 6 (b) Amendments to the Immigration and Na-
- 7 TIONALITY ACT.—The amendments to the Immigration
- 8 and Nationality Act made by this Act, and other provi-
- 9 sions of this Act applying the immigration laws (as defined
- 10 in section 101(a)(17) of Immigration and Nationality Act
- 11 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) to the Commonwealth, shall take
- 12 effect on the transition program effective date described
- 13 in section 6 of Public Law 94–241 (as added by section
- 14 103(a) of this Act), unless specifically provided otherwise
- 15 in this Act.
- 16 (c) Construction.—Nothing in this Act or the
- 17 amendments made by this Act shall be construed to make
- 18 any residence or presence in the Commonwealth before the
- 19 transition program effective date described in section 6 of
- 20 Public Law 94–241 (as added by section 103(a) of this
- 21 Act) residence or presence in the United States, except
- 22 that, for the purpose only of determining whether an alien
- 23 lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as defined in
- 24 section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
- 25 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20))) has abandoned or lost such status
- 26 by reason of absence from the United States, such alien's

- 1 presence in the Commonwealth before, on, or after the
- 2 date of the enactment of this Act shall be considered to
- 3 be presence in the United States.

4 TITLE II—NORTHERN MARIANA

5 ISLANDS DELEGATE ACT

- 6 SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.
- 7 This title may be cited as the "Northern Mariana Is-
- 8 lands Delegate Act".
- 9 SEC. 202. DELEGATE TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 10 FROM COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
- 11 MARIANA ISLANDS.
- 12 The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- 13 shall be represented in the United States Congress by the
- 14 Resident Representative to the United States authorized
- 15 by section 901 of the Covenant To Establish a Common-
- 16 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union
- 17 With the United States of America (approved by Public
- 18 Law 94–241 (48 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)). The Resident Rep-
- 19 resentative shall be a nonvoting Delegate to the House of
- 20 Representatives, elected as provided in this title.
- 21 SEC. 203. ELECTION OF DELEGATE.
- 22 (a) Electors and Time of Election.—The Dele-
- 23 gate shall be elected—

- 1 (1) by the people qualified to vote for the popu-2 larly elected officials of the Commonwealth of the 3 Northern Mariana Islands; and
- 4 (2) at the Federal general election of 2008 and 5 at such Federal general election every 2d year there-6 after.

7 (b) Manner of Election.—

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- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Delegate shall be elected at large and by a plurality of the votes cast for the office of Delegate.
- (2) Effect of establishment of primary elections.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, acting pursuant to legislation enacted in accordance with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, provides for primary elections for the election of the Delegate, the Delegate shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast in any general election for the office of Delegate for which such primary elections were held.
- 22 (c) Vacancy.—In case of a permanent vacancy in the 23 office of Delegate, the office of Delegate shall remain va-24 cant until a successor is elected and qualified.

1	(d) COMMENCEMENT OF TERM.—The term of the
2	Delegate shall commence on the 3d day of January fol-
3	lowing the date of the election.
4	SEC. 204. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DELEGATE.
5	To be eligible for the office of Delegate a candidate
6	shall—
7	(1) be at least 25 years of age on the date of
8	the election;
9	(2) have been a citizen of the United States for
10	at least 7 years prior to the date of the election;
11	(3) be a resident and domiciliary of the Com-
12	monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for at
13	least 7 years prior to the date of the election;
14	(4) be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth of
15	the Northern Mariana Islands on the date of the
16	election; and
17	(5) not be, on the date of the election, a can-
18	didate for any other office.
19	SEC. 205. DETERMINATION OF ELECTION PROCEDURE.
20	Acting pursuant to legislation enacted in accordance
21	with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the North-
22	ern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Common-
23	wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may determine
24	the order of names on the ballot for election of Delegate,
25	the method by which a special election to fill a permanent

- 1 vacancy in the office of Delegate shall be conducted, the
- 2 method by which ties between candidates for the office of
- 3 Delegate shall be resolved, and all other matters of local
- 4 application pertaining to the election and the office of Del-
- 5 egate not otherwise expressly provided for in this title.

6 SEC. 206. COMPENSATION, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES.

- 7 Until the Rules of the House of Representatives are
- 8 amended to provide otherwise, the Delegate from the Com-
- 9 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall receive
- 10 the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a
- 11 Member of the House of Representatives, and shall be en-
- 12 titled to whatever privileges and immunities are, or herein-
- 13 after may be, granted to any other nonvoting Delegate to
- 14 the House of Representatives.

15 SEC. 207. LACK OF EFFECT ON COVENANT.

- No provision of this title shall be construed to alter,
- 17 amend, or abrogate any provision of the covenant referred
- 18 to in section 202 except section 901 of the covenant.

19 SEC. 208. DEFINITION.

- For purposes of this title, the term "Delegate" means
- 21 the Resident Representative referred to in section 202.

1	SEC. 209. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REGARDING AP-
2	POINTMENTS TO MILITARY SERVICE ACAD
3	EMIES BY DELEGATE FROM THE COMMON
4	WEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA IS
5	LANDS.
6	(a) United States Military Academy.—Section
7	4342(a)(10) of title 10, United States Code, is amended
8	by striking "resident representative" and inserting "Dele-
9	gate in Congress".
10	(b) United States Naval Academy.—Section
11	6954(a)(10) of such title is amended by striking "resident
12	representative" and inserting "Delegate in Congress".
13	(c) United States Air Force Academy.—Section
14	9342(a)(10) of such title is amended by striking "resident
15	representative" and inserting "Delegate in Congress".
	Passed the House of Representatives December 11
	2007.
	Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,